

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 Lening 00243 261251Z

73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 NIC-01 SAJ-01 /026 W

----- 054963

R 261150Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL Leningrad

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1045

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Leningrad 0243

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, UR

SUBJECT: Leningradsкая and Tsentralnaya Pravda Honor Victim of
1948 "Leningrad Affair"

USIA FOR IEE

1. IN A RARE TRIBUTE, THESE DAYS, TO A MAJOR SACRIFICE TO THE CULT OF PERSONALITY, FEBRUARY 19TH'S LEPRAVDA IN AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "COMMUNIST AND SOLDIER" MARKED THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF A.A. KUZNETSOV, MAJOR BLOCKAGE-ERA PARTY FIGURE, ZHDANOV'S SUCCESSOR AS Leningrad PARTY LEADER, AND PRINCIPAL VICTIM, ALONG WITH VOZNESENSKIY, OF THE 1948 "Leningrad Affair." KUZNETSOV WAS POSTHUMOUSLY REHABILITATED DURING THE KHRUSCHEV ERA, AND TEN YEARS AGO THE CENTRAL PRAVDA MARKED THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH WITH AN ARTICLE WHICH PROVIDED THE FIRST OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF THE DATE OF HIS TRIAL AND EXECUTION. THIS YEAR, THE CENTRAL PRAVDA MARKED THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY ON FEBRUARY 20. AS IN THE Leningradsкая, IT DEVOTED A HEFTY THIRD OF A PAGE TO ITS ENCOMIUM, WITH PHOTO, ENTITLED "A TRUE SON OF THE PARTY."

2. BOTH ARTICLES RECALL THE YOUNG KUZNETSOV'S RISE TO POWER THROUGH KOMSOMOL AND PARTY RANKS, THE Leningradsкая'S UNDERLINING THAT "AT THE AGE OF TWENTY, HE BECAME A MEMBER OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 Lening 00243 261251Z

THE LENINIST PARTY, AND THROUGHOUT HIS WHOLE LIFE, TOOK TO HIS

HEART DEVOTION TO ITS IDEAS, GOALS, AND AFFAIRS." REVIEWING HIS WARTIME ACTIVITIES, WHICH AMOUNTED TO VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP IN FOOD-DISTRIBUTION AND DEFENSE-ORGANIZATION FOR LENINGRAD, KUZNETSOV IS REMEMBERED BY A WARTIME COLLEAGUE D.V. PAVLOV, AS HAVING ACCOMPLISHED THINGS THAT WERE "IN UNBELIEVABLE TIMES, UNFORGETTABLE." THE HOME-TOWN PAPER GOES ON TO QUOTE MARSHALL ZHUKOV'S POSITIVE MEMORIES OF THE WARTIME LENINGRAD TEAM -- ZHDANOV, KUZNETSOV, SHTYKOV AND SOLOV'EV -- INCLUDING, FOR THE UNENLIGHTENED, HIS NOTE THAT "ETIKH TOVARISHCHEY SEYCHAS UZHE NET V ZHIVYKH" ("THESE COMRADES ARE ALREADY DEAD.") THE ARTICLE CONTINUES, TRACING KUZNETSOV'S CAREER TO THE HEIGHTS ACHIEVED IN THE PERIOD 1946-49, WHEN HE SERVED AS A CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY AND MEMBER OF THE THEN ORGBYURO TSK, VKP (B) WHERE IT ABRUPTLY -- AS DID KUZNETSOV -- ENDS.

3. AS IS PERHAPS FITTING, THE CENTRAL PRAVDA'S TREATMENT IS MORE RESERVED, PORTRAYING A TOUGHER SPECIMEN, TYING THE ARTICLE DIRECTLY TO THE UPCOMING 30TH ANNIVERSARY, AND EVEN PRINTING A PICTURE THAT SHOWS A FATTER, OLDER AND LESS SOULFUL-LOOKING KUZNETSOV. KALININ IS CITED, RATHER THAN ZHUKOV, AND KUZNETSOV'S ORGBYURO POST OMITTED. ONLY THE PAST TENSE TELLS THE READER THAT KUZNETSOV ISN'T ON PENSION SOMEWHERE.

4. COMMENT: THE DIFFERENCES IN CONTENT AND TONE OF THE TWO PIECES INTERESTINGLY INDICATE THE DEAL OF LOCAL PRIDE THAT CHARACTERIZES LENINGRAD, BUT WHICH ALWAYS, HOWEVER, IS INTERACTING WITH FEAR OF THE POWER OF THE CAPITAL. ADDITIONALLY, IN THE FACE OF A GENERAL LINE WHICH PRESENTS THE QUESTION OF STALINIST EXCESSES AS HAVING BEEN ONCE AND FOR ALL DEALT WITH AND NOT TO BE NEEDLESSLY DWELT UPON, THESE TWO ARTICLES POINT UP WHAT IS LIKELY TO BE A MINOR MEDIA ANNOYANCE FOR THE SOVIETS DURING THE PROCESS OF HEATING UP THE PUBLIC FOR THE UPCOMING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "VICTORY OVER FASCISM," I.E., THE NUMBER OF VICTORS WHO BECAME, NOT LONG AFTER, VICTIMS, ESPECIALLY IN LENINGRAD. IN COMBINATION WITH THE FACT OF A FRAMED PICTURE OF STALIN SEEN DISPLAYED PROMINENTLY ON THE BOOKSHELVES OF A MID-RANGE CITY SOVIET OFFICIAL'S APARTMENT DURING A SOCIAL EVENT RECENTLY, IT CALLS TO MIND THE NUMBER OF OLD UNPAID SCORES HERE THAT THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY DRUM-BEATING WILL PROBABLY BE DREDGING UP, IF NOT SURFACING.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 Lening 00243 261251Z

NEUBERT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LENING00243
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750068-0196
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750211/aaaaajwa.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LENINGRADSKAYA AND TSENTRALNAYA PRAVADA HONOR VICTIM OF 1948 "LENINGRAD AFFAIR"
TAGS: PINS, UR, (KUZNETSOV, A A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006